

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A woven composite fabric, said fabric comprising metal elements and polymer elements, said metal elements comprising at least one of metal wires, bundles of metal wires, metal strands comprising metal wires and metal cords comprising metal wires, wherein said polymer elements are polymer tapes, and wherein said metal wires elements have a diameter between 0.1 mm and 0.4 mm ~~greater than approximately 40 μ m~~.
2. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 1, wherein each of said polymer tapes has an essentially rectangular cross-section.
3. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 2, wherein said cross-section has a thickness less than approximately 1000 μ m.
4. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 2, wherein said cross-section has a width less than approximately 10 mm.
5. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 1, wherein said fabric has a warp direction and a weft direction, wherein all of said metal elements are present in said warp direction.
6. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 1, wherein said fabric has a warp direction and a weft direction, wherein said metal elements are present in said warp direction, and wherein said polymer tapes are present in said weft direction.
7. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 1, wherein said metal elements have an inweaving factor substantially equal to 1.
8. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 1, wherein said metal elements are steel cords.

9. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 1, wherein said fabric has a plain woven structure.

10. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 1, wherein said fabric has a double weft structure worked in a plain-weave manner.

11. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 1, wherein each of said metal elements is coated with a polymer layer.

12. (Original) A reinforced hose comprising:

a hose; and

a woven composite fabric as in claim 1 connected to the hose.

13-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A woven composite fabric, said fabric comprising metal elements and polymer elements, said metal elements comprising at least one of metal wires, bundles of metal wires, metal strands comprising metal wires and metal cords comprising metal wires, wherein said polymer elements are polymer tapes having an essentially rectangular cross-section having a thickness, and wherein a distance between circumferences of two adjacent metal elements is substantially equal to the thickness of the polymer tape said metal elements are separated by a distance not greater than approximately 10 mm.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A woven composite fabric as in claim [[27]] 26, wherein said cross-section has a thickness less than approximately 1000 μm .

29. (Currently Amended) A woven composite fabric as in claim [[27]] 26, wherein said cross-section has a width less than approximately 10 mm.

30. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 26, wherein said fabric has a warp direction and a weft direction, wherein all of said metal elements are present in said warp direction.

31. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 26, wherein said fabric has a warp direction and a weft direction, wherein said metal elements are present in said warp direction, and wherein said polymer tapes are present in said weft direction.

32. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 26, wherein said metal elements have an inweaving factor substantially equal to 1.

33. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 26, wherein said metal elements are steel cords.

34. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 26, wherein said fabric has a plain woven structure.

35. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 26, wherein said fabric has a double weft structure worked in a plain-weave manner.

36. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 26, wherein each of said metal elements is coated with a polymer layer.

37. (Original) A reinforced hose comprising:

 a hose; and
 a woven composite fabric as in claim 26 connected to the hose.

38. (Original) A woven composite fabric as in claim 26, wherein said metal elements are separated by a distance not greater than approximately 1000 μm .

39-50. (Canceled)

51. (New) A woven composite fabric according to claim 1, wherein a number of said metal elements present in one of a warp and a weft direction is not less than approximately one-third a number of said polymer elements present in said one of a warp and a weft direction.

52. (New) A woven composite fabric according to claim 1, wherein said polymer elements are polymer tapes having an essentially rectangular cross-section having a thickness, and

wherein the distance between the circumferences of two adjacent metal elements is substantially equal to the thickness of the polymer tape.

53. (New) A woven composite fabric according to claim 26, wherein a number of said metal elements present in one of a warp and a weft direction is not less than approximately one-third a number of said polymer elements present in said one of a warp and a weft direction.